Sustainable development is…

Often, we find better solutions when we integrate approaches that draw on the information and successes of seemingly disparate fields. We need not choose between valuing the past and protecting the future. Sustainable development includes preservation of cultural icons and deep traditions while moving into the future. Cooperation between all stakeholders—public and private, corporate and citizen, local, regional and national—creates the basis for successful long-term stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. International cooperation among governmental and private entities can promote and facilitate community-based action, voluntary initiatives and the role of local organizations and contribute toward the achievement of sustainable development goals. This is why sustainable development is created through **partnerships**.

… a multidimensional and interdisciplinary concept

Illegal Wildlife Trade

The illegal international trade in wildlife and plants, particularly of protected or endangered species, poses a major threat to global biodiversity. In a US $10 billion market, poachers illegally export plants and animals from their natural habitats to industrialized countries. This trade directly reduces wild populations, further jeopardizing the survival of already threatened species.

The United States is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and is dedicated to vigorous enforcement of its terms. The U.S. Department of Justice works with customs officials around the world, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Forest Service and other agencies to enforce strong environmental laws against traffickers in endangered plants and wildlife. Violators are subject to criminal sanctions under specific trafficking statutes and other federal regulations that bar money laundering, smuggling, conspiracy and tax violations.

The global nature of the wildlife trade also necessitates close international cooperation. U.S. agencies work with INTERPOL, foreign governments and multilateral agencies to protect endangered wildlife against predation.

Morton International, Inc.

Environmental rules mean little unless they are strictly enforced. In the last year, EPA has set new records for vigorous enforcement of environmental laws. EPA has also undertaken new initiatives to build stronger partnerships with state agencies for enforcement. In 2000, EPA recovering the largest civil fine ever assessed on a single facility.

In 2000, the United States and the State of Mississippi lodged a criminal plea with a $2 million fine, and reached a civil settlement for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and laws governing hazardous waste and toxic substances. Morton agreed to pay a $20 million civil penalty.

Morton also agreed to conduct a comprehensive site investigation, undertake third-party national audits of all 23 of Morton's other chemical manufacturing facilities, spend $10 million on a pollution prevention/reduction plant project, $4 million for a sewer replacement project for the City of Moss Point, and $2 million on a research project on environmentally friendly chemistry at the University of Southern Mississippi. EPA's groundbreaking prosecution demonstrated that pollution doesn't pay, but polluters do.